

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of making an authentication product, comprising the steps of:

providing a first product, applying a plurality of micro discrete image products, each of said micro discrete image products having a size no greater than about 20 microns and having at least one predetermined image thereon, said predetermined image having a size no greater than about 10 microns.

2. A method according to claim 1 wherein said micro discrete products when placed on an article do not detract from the original appearance of the article as viewed under normal viewing conditions.

3. A method according to claim 1 further comprising the step of viewing said first product under magnification so as to view said micro discrete particles for identification of said indicia.

4. A method according to claim 1 wherein said discrete image is formed on a photosensitive media using near-field optics

5. A product having a plurality of micro discrete particles placed thereon, said particles having a size no greater than about 20 microns and having at least a portion of a micro image placed thereon, said micro image having a size no greater than about 20 microns.

6. A product according to claim 5 wherein said product comprises any one of the following: stock certificates, tickets, clothing, stamps, financial instruments, and labels.

7. A product according to claim 6 wherein said micro discrete particles are applied on said product by applying an adhesive to said product or said micro discrete particles and applying said discrete particles to said product.

8. A product according to claim 6 wherein said micro discrete particles are applied on said product by an electrostatic process.

9. A product according to claim 5 wherein said discrete includes a photosensitive layer on which said discrete images are formed.

10. A micro discrete particle having a size no greater than about 20 microns and having photosensitive layer on which at least a portion of a micro image is formed thereon, said micro image having a size no greater than about 20 microns.

11. A micro discrete particle according to claim 10 wherein said discrete image has a size no greater than about 10 microns.

12. A micro discrete particle according to claim 10 wherein said at least a portion of a micro image is provided a plurality of times on said layer.